river, water, as per the newsitem captioned "U. P., Haryana water row", which appeared in the Hindustan Times, dated Dec., 21, 1991;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to resolve to dispute?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) Differences on the figures of committed utilisation of Yamuna Waters are persisting between the basin States of U. P., Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Delhi since quite some time. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting of the Standing Committee of the National Water Resources Council in September, 1990, the Chairman, C. W.C. held discussions with the representatives of the States on the quantum of committed utilisation and submitted a report in July, 1991 which was circulated to the States. Based on this report the issue was further discussed in the inter-State meetings of Chief Ministers held on 22nd Dec., 1991 and 19th January, 1992. It was *inter alia* decided that drafts of agreements on construction of Hathnikund Barrage, Renuka Dam, additional parallel channel for Delhi and on allocations for drinking water supply for the States should be prepared for discussion and finalisation at the next inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers. It was also agreed that the issues as will not be settled through negotiations may there after be referred to a Tribunal. The draft agreements on the above issues have been circulated to the States for consideration.

Distribution of Yamuna Water

725. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government's bid to resolve the inter-State tangle over the distribution of Yamuna water has not succeeded so far ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same ;

(c) whether Government propose to refer this issue to a tribunal ; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take to solve the Yamuna water sharing problem ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) to (d) Based on the report prepared by the Chairman, CWC in July, 1991 the matter was discussed in inter-State meetings of Chief Ministers held on 22nd December, 1991 and 10th January, 1992. It was decided that draft agreements on construction of Hathnikund Barrage, Ranuka Dam, additional parallel channel for water supply to Delhi and on allocations for drinking water supply for the States should be prepared for discussion in the next inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers. It was also agreed that the issues that may not be settled through negotiations be referred to a Tribunal. The draft agreements on the above issues have been circulated to the States for consideration at the next inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers.

Cauvery Water Dispute

726. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA:
SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether he held discussions with the Chief Ministers and representatives of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Pondicherry to find an amicable solution to resolve the Cauvery Water dispute; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the discussions and how far the problem has been solved ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) The Prime Minister held discussions with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu on issues relating to Cauvery Waters on 17-2-1992.

(b) The States agreed to facilitate expeditious completion of all proceedings before the Tribunal.

Scheme Regarding award of scholarships

727. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have modified the Scheme for giving Scholarships to the School-going children of those engaged in occupations like scavenging and tanning leather ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the States where this Scheme is being implemented and the details of funds allocated and utilised for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of modification are given in the statement-I (*See below*).

(c) The State Governments which have been sanctioned Central assistance during 1991-92 are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

The utilisation position of the Central assistance sanctioned will be available only after the current financial year 1991-92 is over.

Statement-I

Modifications made in the existing centrally sponsored scheme of pre matric scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations ith effect from 1-11-1991 *for* 1991-92

I. HOSTELLERS

The students as hostellers are covered from class III to X instead of class VI to X as per pre-modified provisions of the scheme. The rates of Scholarships are as under :—

Class III to VIII—
R. 200/- per month for 10 months.

Class IX to X—
Rs. 250/- per month for 10 months.

II. DAY SCHOLARS

The Day Scholars from Class I to X have also been made eligible under the scheme and the rates of Scholarships in respect of them are as under :—

Class I to V—
Rs. 25/- per month for 10 months.

Class VI to VIII—
Rs. 40/- per month for 10 months.

Class IX to X—
Rs. 50/- per month for 10 months.

III. AD-HOC GRANT

An adhoc grant of Rs. 500/- per student per annum to all students *i.e.* hostellers as well as day scholars.

IV. INCOME CEILING

Enhanced income ceiling limit of Rs. 1500/- per month instead of Rs. 1,000/- per month as per pre-modified scheme.

Statement-II

I. Central Assistance sanctioned to State Governments during 1991-92 as per pre-modified Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarship for the children of those who are engaged in unclean occupations :—

(Rs. in lakh)

State	Central Assistance Sanctioned
1. Andhra Pradesh .	2·295
2. Assam . . .	13·00
3. Bihar . . .	2·2675
4. Gujarat . . .	14·90
5. Haryana . . .	1·1183
6. Karnataka . . .	1·00
7. Madhya Pradesh . .	1·06
8. Maharashtra . .	0·955
9. Meghalaya . . .	0·225
10. Orissa . . .	0·86
11. Punjab . . .	18·96
12. Rajasthan . . .	3·49
13. Tamil Nadu . .	5·16
14. Tripura . .	0·02
15. West Bengal . .	0·02

II. Central Assistance sanctioned so far to State Governments during 1991-92 as per modified Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Pre-matric Scholarships for the children of those engaged in unclean occupations :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Central Assistance Sanctioned Including adhoc Central Assistance
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh .	27·515
2. Gujarat . . .	25·4725

1	2
3. Haryana . . .	12·9183
4. Madhya Pradesh .	28·23
5. Punjab . . .	20·27
6. Rajasthan . . .	35·692
7. Tripura . . .	9·416
8. Uttar Pradesh . .	49·7875
9. West Bengal . .	3·73

Economic criteria

728. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court is currently hearing the matter relation to the reservations for the specially and educationally backward sections, as well as for the 'other economically backward' sections not covered by any reservation scheme ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court has asked Government to define the 'Economic Criteria';

(c) whether Government have supplied the information asked for by the Supreme Court ; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Prime Minister had written on 29-10-91 to the Chief Ministers of States/Governors/Lt. Governors, seeking their view on the economic criteria which should be adopted for providing preference to the poorer sections amongst the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) and other economically Backward Sections of People who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation, while implementing the policy of reservation in civil services and posts under the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment.

The Supreme Court was informed on 31-10-91, that on receipt of the views of the State Governments/UT Administrations it was proposed to convene a conference of Chief Ministers/Governors/Lt. Governors to discuss the issues further. Government also propose to hold consultations with leaders of political parties. The Court was further informed that after undertaking these consultations and evolving, if possible, a national consensus on this subject Government would take a final dicision on the economic criteria referred to in the office memorandum of 25-9-91 pertaining to the subject.

Government had hoped to take a final decision in this regard by 26-1-92. However, it has not been possible to adhere to this time schedule because a number of replies are still awaited to the Prime Minister's letter of 29-10-91 in spite of several reminders issued to the defaulting State Goverments.

On this important issue it is desirable to proceed with caution and after due deliberation, taking into account the views expressed by the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. Accordingly, the matter is being pursued with the State Governments vigorously. It will be government's endeavour to evolve, if possible, a national consensus on the subject so as to promote social justice in an atmosphere of social harmony and peace.

Reservation for Physically-Handicapped in Union Territories

729. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make the implementation of reservation for the physically-handicapped in Delhi and other Union Territories, a time-bound programme ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) to (c) 3% of the vacancies have been reserved for physically handicapped-- 1% each of the visual, hearing and orthopaedically handicapped in Group 'C' and and 'D' civil posts under the Central Government. The Government of India has carried out Special Recruitment Drives during 1987, 1988 & 1990 to fill up the backlog of reserved vacancies for the visually handicapped and hearing handicapped in Group 'C' & 'D' posts in Ministries/Departments. Public Undertakings and Banks, etc. The process of filling up of these posts is continuing. The Administrations of the Union Territories including that of Delhi are aware of their responsibilities to implement such reservation.